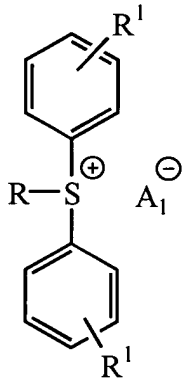
IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

~~An object of the present invention is to provide a method for effectively producing a triarylsulfonium salt having a structure that only one aromatic ring of three aromatic rings on the cation portion thereof is different from the other two aromatic rings (hereinafter, abbreviated as a triarylsulfonium salt relating to the present invention) in a high yield without forming any byproduct. The present invention relates to a~~ A method for producing a triarylsulfonium salt represented by ~~the general~~ formula [4]:

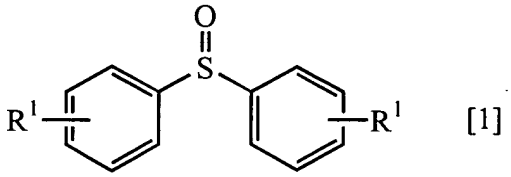


[4]

wherein, ~~two R^1's represent each~~ R^1 represents hydrogen [[atom]], halogen [[atom]], alkyl [[group]], haloalkyl ~~group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms~~, alkoxy [[group]], acyl [[group]], hydroxyl [[group]], amino [[group]], nitro [[group]] or cyano [[group]]; R represents an aryl [[group]] which may have a substituent ~~selected from a halogen atom, an alkyl group, a haloalkyl group having 1 to~~

~~4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group, an alkylthio group, a N-alkylcarbamoyl group and a carbamoyl group, and the above substituent is~~ different from one represented by ~~the above~~ R^1; and A^1 represents a strong acid residue,

comprising reacting a diaryl sulfoxide represented by ~~the general~~ formula [1]:



[1]

wherein, R^1 represents the same as above,

and an aryl Grignard reagent represented by ~~the general~~ formula [2]:

RMgX [2]

wherein, X represents a halogen [[atom]]; R represents the same as above,

in the presence of an activator with high affinity for oxygen of 3 to 7.5 equivalents relative to the above diaryl sulfoxide, and then reacting the resultant reaction mixture with a strong acid represented by ~~the general~~ formula [3]:

HA_1 [3]

wherein, A^1 represents the same as above,

———or a salt thereof.